



Regulatory Update: NPDES Permit Decisions

May 21, 2009

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NPDES Permit Branch

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Alabama Department of Environmental Management

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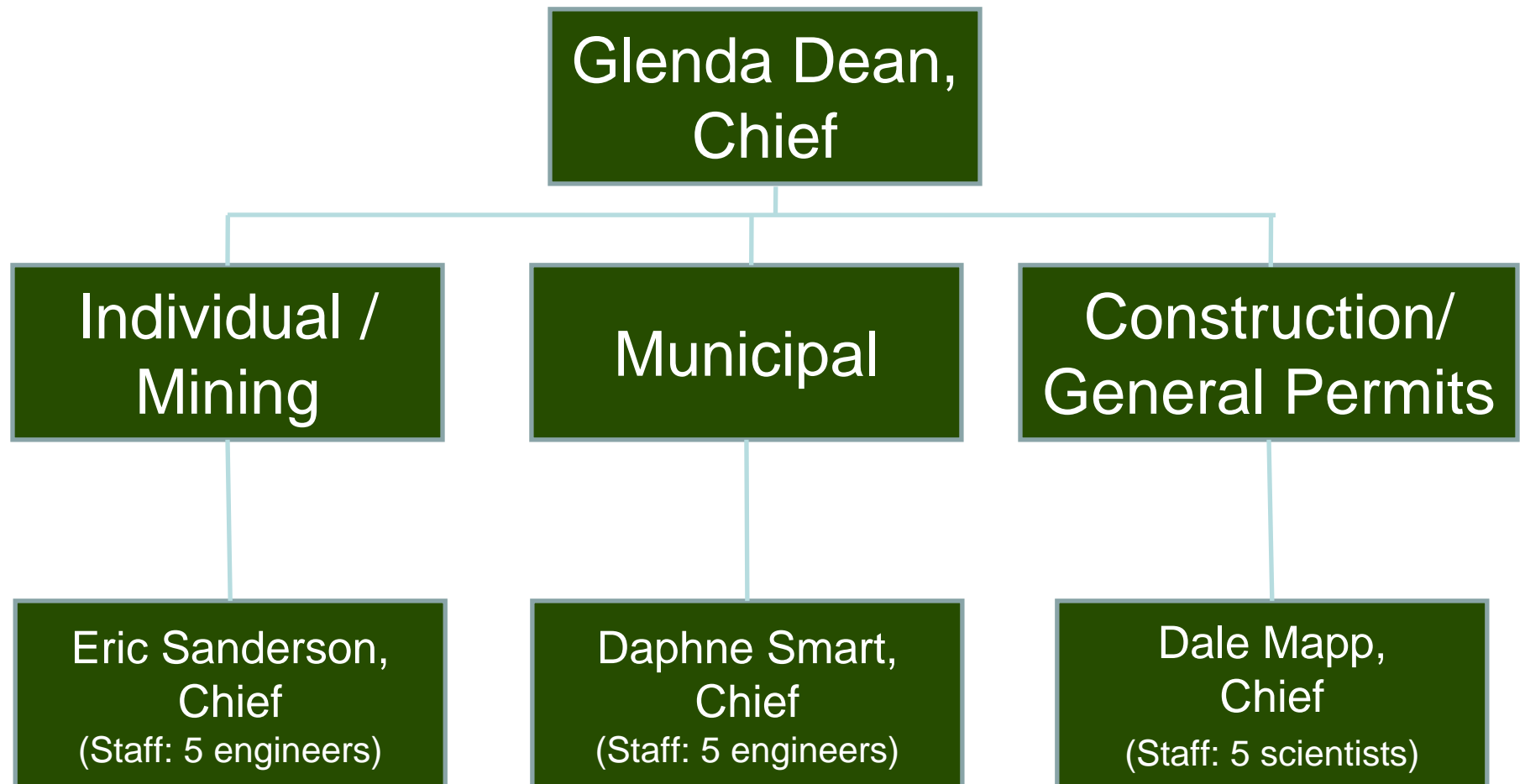
Presentation Goal

- Overview of Permit Branch
- NPDES permit development process
- Typical problems with applications
- Facilitating the permitting process



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NPDES Permit Branch





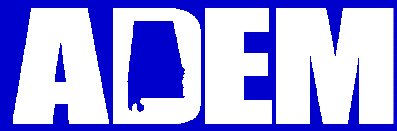
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NPDES Permit Universe

Permit Universe (as of 5/1/09)	Municipal	Industrial*	Mining
Permitted Facilities	663	360	709
Pending Applications	127	90	159

**Does not include 350 Indirect Dischargers to POTW*

Permits Issued (>5/1/08)	Municipal	Industrial	Mining
Permits Issued	131	72	170



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NPDES Permit Program Goals

Goals:

- Develop a quality permit
Complies with all state and federal regulations
- Provide a permit decision in a timely manner
Within 180 days of receipt of **complete** application



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NPDES Permit Type

Two Types of NPDES Permits:

- Individual Permit: Custom
- General Permit: Standard



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Major Components of a Permit

- Cover Page
- Effluent Limits
- Monitoring and Reporting
- Special Conditions
- Standard Conditions

NPDES Permitting Process

Receive Application

Review for completeness and accuracy

Develop Draft Permit

30-Day Draft Review

30-Day Public Notice

Address Public Comments

Permit Decision

NPDES Application Forms

Type of Facility	Status	Forms
Industrial and Municipal Facilities	New and Existing	Form 1
Municipal Facilities	New and Existing	ADEM 188 2A
Industrial Facilities	Existing New Non-Process Wastewater	ADEM 187 2C 2D 2E
Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial and Municipal (Major) Activities	New and Existing	2F
Mining	New and Existing	ADEM 315
Coalbed Methane	New and Existing	ADEM 549



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Application Deadlines

- Must be received by ADEM 180 days prior to expiration or initial discharge
- Expired permit is administratively extended if renewal application is on time and complete



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Common Errors and Omissions

- Incorrect Fee Submitted
- Topographic Map Omitted
- Incomplete Sampling Data



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Common Errors and Omissions (continued)

- Production Rates and Flow Data
- Sources
- Antidegradation Forms
- Pollution Abatement Plan

Features of Accurate Applications

- Flow data—verifiable with water balance equation
- Concentration, mass, and flow values correspond
- Concentration values correspond with analytical detection limits



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Background Information Review

- Current Permit
- Discharge Monitoring Reports
- Compliance Inspection Reports
- Similar Facility Permits



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Background Information Review (continued)

- EPA Development Documents
- In-Stream Water Quality Data
- Related Environmental Permits – Air or RCRA



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Facility Site Visits

- Update Information on Manufacturing Processes
- Obtain facility operation information
- Verify application information
- Gain understanding, particularly with more complex facilities



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Common Questions

- Where do I send the application?
- Does the draft permit go to Public Notice?
- Does a mining site require a permit if < 5 acres?



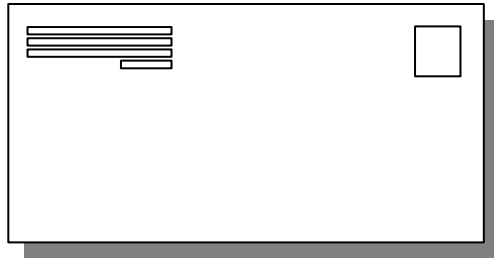
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Common Questions (continued)

- If my site is for active storage, no active mining occurring, do I need a permit?
- Will the Department conduct a public hearing?
- How does a TMDL/Receiving Stream impairment affect my permit?

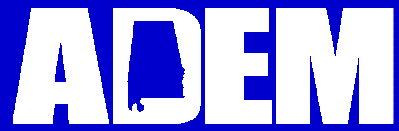
Tips to Facilitate the Process

Communication is Key



Tips to Facilitate the Process

- TMDL Development Process
- Existing Permit and Rationale
- Pre-Application Meeting



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Tips to Facilitate the Process (continued)

- Application Submittal
- Draft Permit
- Permit Issuance



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